

Hebrews Chapter 6

Memory: 6:11

Theme: Danger of Apostasy & Assurance of The Promise

The Hebrews needed to go beyond the basic principles of the gospel (Heb. 6:1). They still needed instruction on repentance, faith, baptism, laying on of hands, resurrection, and eternal judgment. Many Christians today need the same teaching, never having been grounded in these fundamental issues. As a result, their ability to teach their neighbors and refute erroneous ideas is hindered.

Apostasy is discussed next (something related to a lack of understanding of truth). The writer mentions it is “impossible” for an apostate to be renewed to repentance (Heb. 6:4-6). Many people wonder why it is “impossible” when the Bible teaches anyone can change and turn back to God. The answer is in the context. One view is that these were people who had spiritual gifts but were so corrupt they turned their back on God. Another view, and one in more harmony with the context, is that the Hebrews had turned to Christ for salvation — enlightened, tasted the heavenly gift, partakers of the Holy Spirit, tasted the good word of God, and powers of the age to come — but were in danger of turning away from this to the Old Law. Such men were rejecting Christ as the avenue to salvation and essentially killing Him again (Heb. 6:6). They were doomed for destruction because they believed they were right and saw no need to repent (Heb. 6:7, 8).

After the warning, the writer said he thought better of the Hebrews; that they would hold on (Heb. 6:9-12). He then reassures them of God’s faithfulness (Heb. 6:13-20). We will enter heaven as God has promised. However, we must patiently endure like Abraham. As we hold the hope of eternal life in our heart, it will act as an anchor for the soul during the storms of life.

Questions & Discussion

Note Key Verses:

1. Find passages that address the “elementary principles” and be prepared to briefly discuss them (6:1, 2).
2. For what other reasons do men apostatize from the faith, besides turning to the Old Law (6:4-6)? Cite passages.
3. What can cause us to become sluggish and how do we prevent it (6:11, 12)?
4. What are the “two immutable things” (6:18)?
5. List examples from the Bible where men and women had an “anchor of the soul” (6:19).